

Fur Trapping in Iowa

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After the church was abandoned by the Territory in 1840, the members placed in the "Amen corners" some rough benches, with narrow backs. The rest of the house had just benches to be used as seats; but about 1845 it was furnished with comfortable pews. The first pulpit has been described. That was succeeded by a kind of tub concern that half encircled the preacher as he stood behind it. A third stand, a high and massive structure, "marbleized," and thought tasteful in its day, was set up as the pulpit. When taken down in 1862 there was found penciled inside of one of the columns, "August 22nd, 1845." But its day was brief, for in the thorough renewal of Old Zion in 1864 a neat, small stand of walnut took its place as the reading desk of the minister. On down to the year 1879 Old Zion, with a slight interruption in 1864, was used as the place of worship of the station. But in that year the two Methodist churches then in the city were united, and the services taken to the larger edifice on Division Street. Later the old property was sold, the new owners taking the old building, and the adjacent parsonage, down, and erecting on the site a theater. It may be that, in the change that came over the growing city, a new site for the church became a desirable thing. Yet it seems sad that a spot where the people of God had so long gathered for worship, which had been solemnly dedicated to its sacred uses, and which had become hallowed by its associations in the memories of thousands, should now be given up to the giddy throng of fashion, intent alone upon creature enjoyment, to the neglect of the higher duties that pertain to a better and safer life.

FUR TRAPPING IN IOWA.—The rivers and creeks in the interior and western parts of Iowa are said to be perfectly thronged with beavers and minks, to say nothing of myriads of other animals whose hides are sought by the trappers. Beaver Creek, which empties into the Cedar at Cedar Falls, is dammed at very frequent intervals by the industrious and enterprising rodents from which it takes its name. They have not been as plenty before for several years. The trapper's field of labor is a large one, and great numbers of them are "picking up their traps" and preparing to reap their harvest. Prices are likely to be remunerative.—*Sioux City Register*, Dec. 31, 1859.

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